

REMARKS

The present application includes pending claims 1-25. Claims 1-6, 9, 10, and 16-25 remain rejected. Claims 7, 8, and 11-15 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. By this Amendment, claims 1, 7, 21, 24 and 25 have been amended. Claim 7 was amended to correct a typographical error. New claims 26 and 27 have been added.

Claims 26 and 27 include all the limitations of claims 11 and 14, respectively, prior to the current Amendment. Thus, the Applicant respectfully submits that the claims 26 and 27 should be in condition for allowance (i.e., claims 11 and 14 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if written in independent form).

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, 10, 16, 17, 19-21, and 23-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,612,081 (“Cole”). Claims 3, 6, 18, and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cole in view of United States Patent No. 5,422,434 (“Wuertz”). The Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for at least the reasons previously set forth during prosecution and the following:

Claims 1, 21, 24 and 25 have each been amended to recite that the first, second and third seal members are “separate and distinct from one another.” The Office Action states that “the Examiner agrees with the Applicant that Cole does not disclose three separate and distinct seal members....” *See* June 14, 2007 Office Action at page 11. Thus, the Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims should now be in condition for allowance.

In general, the Office Action makes various statements regarding the pending claims and the cited references that are now moot in light of the above. Thus, the Applicant will not address

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such statements at the present time. However, the Applicant expressly reserves the right to challenge such statements in the future should the need arise (e.g., if such statements become relevant by appearing in a rejection of any pending or future claims).

The fee for the new claims is calculated as follows:

2 additional claims in excess of 20 X \$50/claim = \$100

2 additional independent claims in excess of 3 X \$200/claim = \$400

TOTAL = \$500

The Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims of the present application should be in condition for allowance for at least the reasons discussed above and request reconsideration of the claim rejections. If the Examiner has any questions or the Applicant can be of any assistance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any necessary fees, including the \$500 fee for the new claims, or credit any overpayment to the Deposit Account of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Account No. 13-0017.

Respectfully submitted,

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